

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 19-22, 25, 26 and 31 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 21 and 31 are amended.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 20-22 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Noguchi et al. (Noguchi), U.S. Patent No. 4,036,180, in view of Gadkaree et al. (Gadkaree), U.S. Patent No. 5,750,026, and Rao et al. (Rao), U.S. Patent No. 5,758,496. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 31 have been amended to call for a plurality of partitions that are made of a first material and for the first face of the plurality of partitions on the side of the raw material supply flow passage to be only coated by an inactive second material. Independent claim 21 have been amended to call for soot trapping means that are made of a first material for trapping soot generated in the raw gas and for a first face of the soot trapping means to be only coated by an inactive second material.

As argued in the Request for Reconsideration filed January 22, 2008, Noguchi and Gadkaree fail to disclose or suggest the above combination of features because Noguchi and Gadkaree fail to disclose or suggest a first face that is only coated by an inactive material.

Rao also fails to disclose or suggest a first face that is only coated by an inactive material as called for in claims 1, 21 and 31.

The Advisory Action appears to admit that the face of Rao's filter element 38 on the side of the inlet channels 44 is not coated by any material (including an inactive material) when the Advisory Action states that the inlet channels 44 of the filter element 38 are not made of an additional element or coated by an additional element. In this regard, Applicants point out that, although Rao's filter element 38 is made of a ceramic material (such as cordite (col. 4, lines 1-7)), the filter element 38 is not coated by an inactive material as called for by the independent claims. It is further noted that Rao fails to provide any discussion with

regard to alumina, and thus fails to provide any suggestion as to where alumina would be placed on the filter element 38.

In an effort to further prosecution, claims 1, 21 and 31 have been amended to recite that two materials are being used. As discussed above, Rao's filter element 38 is made of a first material (for example, ceramic material such as cordite (col. 4, lines 1-7)). Rao fails to coat the filter element 38 with a second inactive material as called for by claims 1, 21 and 31.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

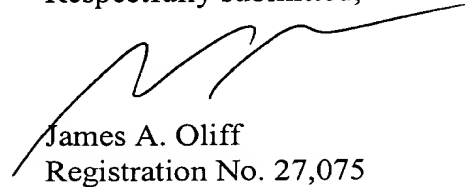
Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Noguchi in view of Gadkaree, Rao and Jahnke et al. (Jahnke), U.S. Patent No. 6,149,589, and claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Noguchi in view of Gadkaree, Rao, Hwang et al. (Hwang), U.S. Patent No. 4,522,894, and Doty et al. (Doty), U.S. Patent No. 5,098,455. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Jahnke, Hwang and Doty fail to overcome the deficiencies of Noguchi, Rao and Gadkaree as applied to independent claims 1, 21 and 31. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: February 29, 2008

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